

REMARKS

On Dec. 14, 2009 (two days ago), the Examiner issued an Examiner's Amendment along with a Notice of Allowance. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance and the Examiner's Amendment, which Applicant accepts with the exception of a few minor typographical errors described below.

Applicant hereby submits the instant Amendment After Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 to cure a few minor typographical errors. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13 and 17 have each been amended to include a single missing semi-colon and the following space character, which were inadvertently deleted from the claims. Again, the aforementioned claims have been amended only to add a single semi-colon and a single space ("; "). Also, the single letter word "a" has been added to claim 9. Other than the minor typographical errors defined above, no other amendments have been made. As the Examiner can see, Applicant has only made slight amendments to the claims in order to cure minor typographical errors, thereby clarifying the claims.

MPEP §714.16 states that "[T]he primary examiner ... has authority to enter amendments submitted after Notice of Allowance of an application which embody merely the correction of ... formal matters in a claim without changing the scope thereof, ... without forwarding to the supervisory patent examiner for approval." MPEP §714.16 further states that "where amendments of the type noted are shown ... to require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office, they may be considered and, if proper, entry may be recommended by the primary examiner."

In this case, the Applicant has simply added a semi-colon and a space to Claims 1, 5, 9, 13 and 17, which does not change the scope of the claims and which requires no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office. The addition of the word "a" to claim 9 also does not change the scope of claim 9 and requires no substantial amount of additional work. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the corresponding primary

examiner in this case enter this Amendment After Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 without forwarding to the supervisory patent examiner for approval.

In the event the examiner or the primary examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the attorney at the telephone number identified below.

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By: /Mark Terry/
Mark Terry, Reg. No. 47,133
Customer No. 60033
801 Brickell Av. Suite 900
Miami, FL 33131
786-443-7720 (voice)
mark@terryfirm.com